



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### **Announcement of Supplemental Funding for Cooperative Agreements to the New Mexico**

**Department of Health, Office of Border Health; Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Border Health; California Department of Public Health, Office of Binational Border Health; Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of Border Health to Improve the Health of Persons and Communities Along the US-Mexico Border**

**AGENCY:** Office of Global Affairs, Office of the Secretary, DHHS.

*Announcement Type:* Cooperative Agreement—FY 2012 Supplemental Funding Announcement. Non-competitive.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:* 93.018.

**PROJECTS PERIOD:** September 30, 2012 – August 31, 2013

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) announces that up to \$150,000.00 (\$37,500.00 to each State) in fiscal year (FY) 2012 funds are being awarded for supplemental funding to existing cooperative agreements to the Department of Health Services of the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California, whom will work through the U.S.–Mexico Border Health Commission, to improve the health of persons and communities along the US-Mexico border. This initiative addresses Border Binational Health Week; Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations on the U.S.-Mexico Border; U.S.-Mexico Border Tuberculosis Consortium and Legal Issues Forum; Border Binational Obesity Prevention Summit; Border Health Research Forum, Work Group and Expert Panel Meeting; Healthy Border 2010/2020 Strategic Plan; the Outreach Office Planning Meeting, and programmatic and administrative support to the members and staff of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commissions. The budget period will be one year with a project period of five years for a total of \$150,000.00 (including

indirect costs).

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

Under the authority of 22 U.S.C. § 290n, OGA announces the allocation of fiscal year (FY) 2012 funds as supplemental funding to already existing cooperative agreements to the New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Border Health; Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Border Health; California Department of Public Health, Office of Binational Border Health; Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of Border Health to strengthen the binational public health projects and programs along the US-Mexico border. Activities to be addressed through the cooperative agreement will relate to the following topic areas: (1) Border Binational Health Week; (2) Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations on the U.S.-Mexico Border; (3) U.S.-Mexico Border Tuberculosis Consortium and Legal Issues Forum; (4) Border Binational Obesity Prevention Summit; (5) Border Health Research Forum, Work Group and Expert Panel Meeting; (6) Healthy Border 2010/2020 Strategic Plan; and (7) the Outreach Office Planning Meeting.

This assistance will support current, on-going and proposed public health initiatives in this border region, under ongoing, cooperative agreements already awarded to the border health offices in the States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. that support the goals and objectives of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, serve to strengthen access to health care, disease prevention, and public health along the US-Mexico border.

*Background:* The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, works toward creating awareness about the U.S.-Mexico border, its people, and its environment. It educates others about the unique challenges at the border through outreach efforts, data collection and analysis, and joint collaborative efforts with public and private partners in the border health community. The USMBHC serves as a rallying point for shared concerns about the U.S.-Mexico border and as a catalyst for action to develop plans directed toward solving specific health related problems. Outreach offices of the USMBHC work with the border states to

address public health concerns and needs affecting the border region. The Department of Health Services of the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California will work with their Mexican counterparts to promote and strengthen binational health initiatives along the US-Mexico border.

*Purpose:* The overall objective of the five-year cooperative agreements with the Offices of Border Health in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, initiated in 2011, is to support and coordinate the USMBHC's objectives and the development of the outreach health activities along the US and Mexico border. The cooperative agreements focus on time-limited, product-oriented, and measurable outputs that may contribute to and help to inform the binational dialogue at local, state, and federal levels, regarding mutual challenges in border health, including tuberculosis; obesity/diabetes; infectious disease and public health emergencies; strategic planning; access to care; and research, data collection, and academic alliances.

Activities:

Each state will use these supplemental funds in support of the goals of the Commission, to expand and enhance ongoing activities. Specifically:

- Arizona will expand participation in the Leaders Across Borders Program, which addresses major public health problems along the border through developing leadership skills and facilitating collaborative partnerships among US and Mexico health officials.
- California will increase the number of participants attending the Border Health Research Forum and will host a stakeholders meeting in support of the Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations on the US-Mexico Border Initiative.
- Texas will increase the number of participants attending the Border Binational Obesity Prevention Summit, to share knowledge and best practices regarding a critical problem affecting border populations.
- New Mexico will plan, coordinate, and execute Phase IV of the Healthy Border 2010/2020

Strategic Plan, and will increase the number of regional activities of the Prevention and Health Promotion among Vulnerable Populations on the US-Mexico Border Initiative, to improve health outcomes of vulnerable populations living on the U.S-Mexico Border.

## **II. Award Information**

The administrative and funding instrument to be used for this program will be cooperative agreements in which substantial OGA/HHS scientific and/or programmatic involvement is anticipated during the performance of these projects. Under the cooperative agreements, OGA/HHS will support and/or stimulate awardees activities by working with them in a non-directive partnership role. Awardees will also be expected to work directly with and in support of the U.S.–Mexico Border Health Commission and its stated goals and initiatives as outlined in the submitted work plan.

Approximately \$150,000.00 (\$37,500.00 to each State) in fiscal year (FY) 2012 funds are available as supplemental funding to the already existing agreements. The anticipated start date is September 30, 2012 through August 31, 2013. There will only be four awards made from this announcement.

## **III. Justification for the Exception to Competition**

The supplemental funding is for ongoing, cooperative agreements already awarded to the border health offices in the States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The purpose of the activities of the cooperative agreements is to accomplish the goals and objectives of the US-Mexico Border Health Commission. State border health offices have both extensive experience working with the Border Health Commission, and have existing relationships and ongoing initiatives with Mexican border states. This experience and relationships make the offices unique in helping the Commission carry out its binational health initiatives and activities along the border.

The supplemental funds are to provide additional support for several key activities of the cooperative agreements. Because the activities are ongoing, and being planned and carried out by the State border

health offices, awarding the funds to the border health offices is the only practicable way to accomplish the objectives of enhancing and extending the activities.

#### **IV. Agency Contacts**

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